United Nations A/60/749

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda items 69 and 71

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Human rights questions

Letter dated 12 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Japanese authorities are stepping up provocative actions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on a new scale.

The right-wing reactionary forces in Japan are calling for sanctions and fanning up hostile sentiments against the DPRK over the "abduction issue" which was already resolved, while kicking up sweeping repression on the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

At the instigation of the intelligence agencies of the U.S. and Japan and other right-wing conservative forces, anti-DPRK units and individuals under the cloak of "non-governmental organizations" abducted citizens of the DPRK in the name of humanity. In this regard, the Ministry of People's Security of the DPRK has issued warrants for the arrest of those Japanese individuals concerned.

Recent undisguised anti-DPRK manoeuvres of Japan constitute a flagrant violation of all international human rights instruments, in particular General Assembly resolution 60/251, which created the Human Rights Council.

I enclose herewith the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the answer by the spokesman of the Ministry of People's Security for your information (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 69 and 71 of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
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Annex I to the letter dated 12 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The attempts by the Japanese authorities against the DPRK and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) have assumed a new dimension and taken a turn for worse.

As already reported, the Japanese authorities unhesitatingly mobilized the state power, including dozens of the riot police in Osaka Prefecture, on 23 March to search six places, including the Office of the Korean Federation of Workers in Commerce in Osaka Prefecture, shops run by Koreans and their dwelling houses, on the initiative of the public security department of the Tokyo Police Agency.

On top of this, the Japanese authorities retracted measures to exempt the Central Hall, the Hall of Tokyo Metropolitan headquarters and the Press Hall of Chongryon from municipal property tax and impounded them. And they intensified financial pressure to disorganize Chongryon, scheming to totally withdraw the measure for exempting all facilities related to Chongryon across the country from municipal property tax of local autonomous bodies under the pretext of "strict application of the existing law".

The DPRK can't remain a passive onlooker to the terror-ridden suppression of Chongryon and Korean residents in Japan, which are now running wild.

From the historical viewpoint, too, the Japanese government, from the outset, is legally and morally obliged to ensure Chongryon's activities and protect the life of Korean residents in Japan.

The Japanese prime minister repeatedly clarified his stand to treat Koreans in Japan well without any discrimination at the time of adopting the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration and on other occasions. The Japanese government, too, reaffirmed this at the talks on the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan held in Beijing in early February.

However, Japan, a so-called "constitutional state", perpetrated the fascist suppression of Chongryon and Korean residents in Japan in a gangster-like way by setting state power in motion while deliberately linking the already settled "abduction issue" to Chongryon. It also tries to put pressure upon the DPRK. This is a really mean and ridiculous act.

Chongryon is a legitimate overseas Koreans' organization of the DPRK, which defends all the democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan, and it plays the role of a diplomatic mission which promotes friendship with the Japanese people, given that there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The suppression of such a dignified organization and Korean residents in Japan cannot be construed otherwise than a wanton violation of the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration and an unpardonable infringement upon the sovereignty of the DPRK.

Our army and people can hardly refrain from their hatred and resentment to Japan's reckless moves.

The DPRK will call Japan to account for and take a strong countermeasure against the suppression of Chongryon and Korean residents in Japan that is systematically committed under the aegis and manipulation of the Japanese government.

The Japanese authorities can never evade their responsibility for the serious consequences arising therefrom.

Annex II to the letter dated 12 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answers by the Spokesman of the Ministry of People's Security

A spokesman for the Ministry of People's Security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) answered a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 27 March as regards the issue of warrants for the arrest of those who were involved in the abduction of the DPRK citizens.

Lately, Japan is ever more provocative in its attempt against the DPRK and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

The right-wing reactionary forces in Japan are calling for sanctions and fanning up hostile sentiments against the DPRK over an "abduction issue" which was already resolved. They also continue their unprecedented clamp down on Chongryon.

At the same time, under the manipulation of U.S. and Japanese intelligence and plot-breeding bodies and other right-wing conservative forces, anti-DPRK organizations and individuals abducted our citizens in a broad daylight in the guise of a "non-governmental organization" under the pretext of "humanitarianism".

We regard this act as a grave infringement upon our national sovereignty and safety of our citizens and part of the plot to overturn our system.

The Ministry, as the first follow-up measure, issued warrants of arrest for the members of a Japanese "non-governmental organization", such as Fumiaki Yamata, Hiroshi Kato, Takayuki Noguchi and Ri Yong Hwa, according to the relevant articles of the DPRK criminal law and criminal procedure law.

All of those had a record of wire-pulling or having a hand in the operations of luring and abducting the DPRK citizens, including those who returned home after living in Japan and their children as well as Japanese women in the DPRK.

We demanded the Japanese government to extradite above-said criminals through a diplomatic channel.

The Ministry, whose mission is to protect and defend our system and people's life and property, will take necessary steps for this in the area where the DPRK's sovereignty is exercised and where cooperation in this respect is possible.